

Community/NTNC systems must comply by January 23, 2006

State of Idaho prepares legislation for new 10 ppb arsenic standard

Idaho DEQ is in the process of adopting the new standard of 10 parts per billion (ppb) for the Arsenic Rule. States, community water systems, and non-transient non-community water systems must comply with the new 10 ppb standard by January 23, 2006.

The reduced standard, however, has led to some questions and confusion regarding the adoption of the rule. For example, some systems have wondered if the state could set its own standard, or maybe the state should not adopt the rule. Consequently, it is important to clarify a few points:

- **10 ppb is now federal law.** The time for commenting on the revised standard of 10 ppb has long passed and is in place whether Idaho DEQ adopts the rule or not.
- **EPA oversees Arsenic Rule if Idaho does not adopt.** If Idaho DEQ does not adopt the new standard, the US EPA will then have direct oversight over compliance with the rule in Idaho, including enforcement.
- **Failure to adopt could affect state's primacy.** Failure of Idaho to adopt the Arsenic Rule could lead to EPA revoking the state's "primacy status" of the drinking water program.

Primacy means that Idaho, not EPA, has oversight over regulated public water systems in this state. Primacy also means that the state has enforcement authority and not EPA. Idaho could lose that primacy status if it does not adopt the rule.
- **State rule cannot be more or less stringent.** In order to maintain primacy for the drinking water program, Idaho drinking water rules cannot be less stringent than the federal rules. In other words, Idaho could not raise the arsenic standard above 10 ppb.

To summarize, the time to comment on the revised standard itself has passed and the new arsenic standard of 10 ppb is in place. Failure of Idaho DEQ to adopt the rule,

would place the US EPA in charge of the compliance and enforcement of the Arsenic Rule, and possibly other drinking water rules if the state lost its primacy. ■

■ Time to renew 3-year waivers for the 2005-2007 Compliance Period

Don't forget . . . community and non-community non-transient water systems must renew SOC (synthetic organic compounds), surface water VOC (volatile organic compounds), or Dioxin monitoring waivers *by December 31, 2004* for the 2005-2007 compliance period.

Systems with approved SOC, surface water VOC, or Dioxin waivers for the 2002-2004 compliance period are required to renew them every 3 years. Waiver applications and renewal instructions can be found on the DEQ web site at www.deq.state.id.us/water/water1.htm#waivers.

Governor appoints drinking water and wastewater licensure board

In May, Governor Kempthorne appointed members to the State Board of Drinking Water and Wastewater Professionals. Members of the newly created board are Ross Spackman, Mike Schroeder, Kevin Pfenning, Robert Hansen, Victor Coles, Bill Thompson, and Toni Hardesty.

The new board will oversee the licensing of Drinking Water Operators, Wastewater Operators, and Backflow Assembly Testers.

The board will work in cooperation with the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses (IBOL) to administer the state law and related rules. The board's web page is located at www2.state.id.us/ibol/wwP.htm. ■

Systems serving 3,300 customers or less

DEQ announces free security training for small systems

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is sponsoring two free security training workshops for small water systems (i.e., systems serving 3,300 customers or less) in October and November 2004.

The one-day security workshops, "How to Conduct a Vulnerability Assessment" and "Emergency Response Planning," will be offered in five cities across the state.

Each security course is a one-day workshop and both courses are being offered back to back on alternate days (see schedule below).

Systems may participate in one or both of the workshops.

- **How to Conduct a Vulnerability Assessment (VA)** provides participants with information needed to reduce the vulnerability of their water systems to man-made threats and natural disasters.

The course will help systems to identify corrective actions that can reduce potential threats to their drinking water supply.

- **Emergency Response Planning (ERP)** will help systems to develop a framework for response to emergencies.

The workshop will emphasize existing emergency responses in the state and the need for a coordinated approach to provide adequate water during a crisis.

Scheduled Sessions. In the schedule below, the first day of training is for Vulnerability Assessments and the second day will cover Emergency Response Planning.

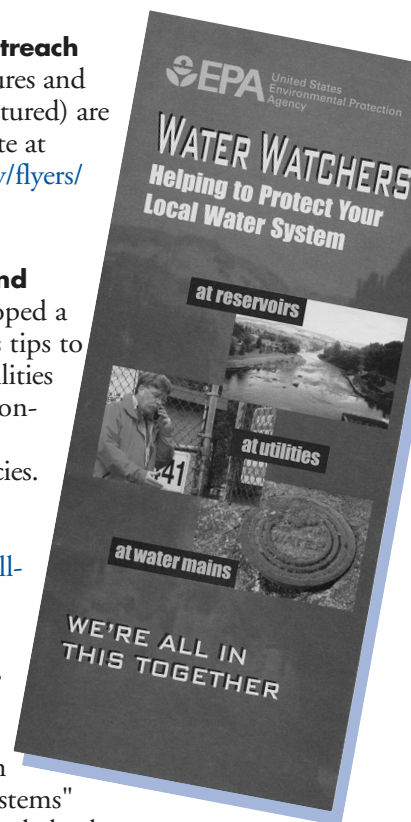
Location	VA	ERP
Coeur d'Alene	Oct 21	Oct 22
Idaho Falls	Oct 25	Oct 26
Twin Falls	Oct 28	Oct 29
Lewiston	Nov 4	Nov 5
Boise	Nov 17	Nov 18

For more information, visit www.deq.state.id.us/water/water1.htm#security.

EPA/DEQ system security information available

EPA has produced a number of security web sites with information for public drinking water systems. The following gives a brief description and site address of each EPA web site, plus a link to DEQ's drinking water security page.

- ❑ **Security Products Guides.** These EPA guides provide information on a variety of products available to enhance physical security (such as walls, gates, and manhole locks to delay unauthorized entry into buildings or pipe systems) and electronic or cyber security. See www.epa.gov/safewater/security/guide/index.html.
- ❑ **Drinking Water Security Outreach Materials.** A variety of brochures and flyers (such as the brochure pictured) are available through EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/security/flyers/index.html.
- ❑ **Top Ten List for Small Ground Water Suppliers.** EPA developed a "Top Ten" list, which includes tips to help suppliers protect their facilities from tampering or deliberate contamination incidents, and to prepare for potential emergencies. Access the list at: www.epa.gov/safewater/security/pdfs/fs_security_small-suppliers_top10.pdf.
- ❑ **Response Protocol Toolbox.** The "Response Protocol Toolbox: Planning for and Responding to Contamination Threats to Drinking Water Systems" consists of six units designed to help the water sector respond to intentional contamination threats and incidents. The "toolbox" can be accessed at www.epa.gov/safewater/security/ertools.html#toolbox.
- ❑ **DEQ's Security Information for Water Systems.** Water systems can access additional security information at DEQ's web site located at www.deq.state.id.us/water/water1.htm#security. ■



DEQ's Idaho Drinking Water Newsletter is available online at www.deq.state.id.us/water/dwnnewsletter/H2O_Bulletin_33.pdf

DEQ mails fiscal year 2005 annual review of connections

As a reminder, in August, DEQ will mail each public drinking water system an annual fee assessment inventory form for the program's fiscal year 2005 (October 1, 2004 - September 30, 2005).

The Drinking Water Program asks systems to review the general fee assessment information that DEQ has on file, make any necessary corrections or changes, and then return the sheet in the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope. If there are no changes, the system does not have to return the inventory form.

The review gives a system the chance to correct addresses, telephone numbers, names of contact persons or owners, and to review the number of system connections as shown on the state's records.

Since the annual fee assessment is based on total number of connections, it is important that you double-check the number shown on the form to make sure that your system is being correctly assessed. If you have added connections since the last inventory, you must indicate the additional number of connections on the form.

For your budget planning purposes, the inventory form concludes by telling the system what its annual fee assessment will be for fiscal year 2005. *The inventory form is not, however, a request for payment.*

DEQ will mail annual fee assessments to all public drinking water systems in September. Assessments will be due in full on October 1, 2004 unless a system is paying on a quarterly or monthly basis.

Safe Drinking Water H o t l i n e

For general information on drinking water, contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. You can also contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline.

Operator Licensure Exams coming up December 2004

- The next exam for water and wastewater operator licensure will be given December 1, 2004. The deadline for exam applications is September 27, 2004.
- Send applications for exams to Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses (IBOL) at:

IBOL

1109 Main Street, Owyhee Plaza, Suite 220
Boise, Idaho 83702

- You can download classification worksheets and various application forms at www.idahocertificationtraining.com/forms.htm.
- Individual operator licenses can be researched at www.ibol.idaho.gov/eIBOLPublic/LPRBrowser1.aspx.

Ways to help balance the budget without raising rates*

Some suggestions for public water systems

- Collect overdue accounts.
- Get serious about leak detection. *If you produce your own water, your water loss should be less than 15 percent. If you are buying treated water, water loss should be under 10 percent.*
- Make sure your "cash registers" are working. (Water meters are your system's cash registers. If you do not have meters, install them.)
- Update your fees, deposits, and service charges.
- Improve customer billing. (Make sure everyone who is receiving water is getting a bill.)
- Get tough on cheaters.
- Put your money to work. (Shop around for banking services.)
- Buy in quantity. (Consider purchasing chemicals and supplies in bulk.)
- Add new customers.

**From the Midwest Assistance Program: "Financial Management Handbook for Small Community Water Systems."*

T R A I N I N G S C H E D U L E

Class/Sponsor	Location	Date
Certification Review, Collection Systems 1 & 2 (BE)	Idaho Falls	August 3
Certification Review, Collection Systems 3 & 4 (BE)	Idaho Falls	August 4
Collection Systems Management (BE)	Idaho Falls	August 5
Certification Review: Small Water Systems (BE)	Glenns Ferry	August 10
Disinfection Systems (IRWA)	Coeur d'Alene	August 10
Hach Testing Instrumentation (SWIOS)	Cascade	August 11
Disinfection Systems (IRWA)	Lewiston	August 12
Mechanical Maintenance (BE)	Caldwell	August 18, 19
Certification Review, Collection Systems 1 & 2 (BE)	Idaho Falls	August 3
Disinfection Systems (IRWA)	Sugar City	August 24
Small Water System Operation & Maintenance (BE)	Rexburg	April 25
Disinfection Systems (IRWA)	Weiser	August 26
Certification Review, Water 1 & 2 (BE)	Idaho Falls	August 26, 27
Certification Review, Wastewater 3 & 4 (BE)	Boise	Sept 1, 2

Certification Review 1-2 (IRWA)	Sandpoint	Sept 7
Certification Review 1-2 (IRWA)	Moscow	Sept 9
Certification Review, Water 1 & 2 (BE)	Coeur d'Alene	Sept 9, 10
Small Water System Operation & Maintenance (BE)	Post Falls	Sept 11
Certification Review, Water 1 & 2 (BE)	Lewiston	Sept 14, 15
Certification Review: Small Water Systems (BE)	Nampa	Sept 18
Land Application (BE)	Hayden Area	Sept 21
Certification Review 1-2 (IRWA)	St. Anthony	Sept 21
Certification Review 1-2 (IRWA)	Emmett	Sept 23
Land Application (BE)	Boise	Sept 23
Disaster Management: Dealing with the Public (BE)	Soda Springs	Sept 28
Land Application (BE)	Pocatello	Sept 29

For further information, call:

(BE) = Brown Environmental, Inc. 1-800-543-4358 or for the Boise area, 1-208-465-5725 www.idahooperatortraining.com

(IRWA) = Idaho Rural Water Association, 1-800-962-3257 or 1-208-343-7001.
Fax: 1-208-343-1866 E-mail: irwa@idahoruralwater.com.
Web site: www.idahoruralwater.com/index2.htm.

(SWIOS) = Southwest Idaho Operator Section of the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association, 1-208-376-2288, www.carollo.com

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